

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

In the method to manufacture composite polymer electrolyte membranes coated with inorganic thin films for fuel cells according to the present invention, said polymer electrolyte membranes are perfluorosulfonic acid membranes such as ~~Nafion[®]—membrane~~ NAFION[®] membrane (Du Pont), ~~Dow—membrane~~ DOW[®] membrane (Dow Chemical), ~~Flemion—membrane~~ FLEMION[®] membrane (Asahi Glass Co.), ~~Aciplex[®]—membrane~~ ACIPLEX[®] membrane (Asahi Chem.), ~~BAM—BAMTM~~ (Ballarde), or ~~Gore-select—GORE-SELECT[®] membrane~~ (W.L.Gore, Inc.); polymer electrolyte membranes made of proton conducting hydrocarbon polymers such as sulfonic polysulfone, sulfonic polyethylene, sulfonic polypropylene, sulfonic polystyrene, sulfonic polyphenol formaldehyde, polystyrene divinylbenzene sulfonic acid, sulfonic polybenzimidazol, sulfonic polyamide, or sulfonic polyether-ether ketone; or polymer electrolyte membranes made of proton conducting polymers containing fluorine such as sulfonic polyvinylidene fluoride, sulfonic polytetrafluorethylene, or fluorine ethylene propylene.